

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: ROLE OF NATO REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS IN PROMOTING CONSULTA-  
TION OF ISSUES OUTSIDE NATO TREATY AREA

1. DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ON IMPROVING NATO CONSULTA-  
TIONS (STATE 5066) ENVISAGE TAILORING MEETINGS OF THE  
REGIONAL EXPERTS TO PROMOTE BETTER COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON  
MATTERS LYING OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA. WHEN MISSION HAS  
RAISED THIS IDEA WITH THE ALLIES WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED SOME  
RESERVATIONS. ONE REASON FOR THESE RESERVATIONS IS THAT  
MANY ALLIES CONCEIVE OF REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS AS HELP-  
FUL PRIMARILY TO THE EXPERTS THEMSELVES, ESPECIALLY THOSE  
FROM SMALLER COUNTRIES. THE IDEA OF ASKING THE EXPERTS TO  
FLUSH OUT POLICY ISSUES APPEARS TO SOME AN OVERLY AMBITIOUS  
EXTENSION OF WHAT THEY CONCEIVE TO BE THE BASIC ROLE OF THE  
EXPERTS MEETINGS.

2. IT IS MISSION'S VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN WITHOUT  
FORMAL AGREEMENT TO TASK EXPERTS WITH ADDITIONAL ROLE  
OF IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES FOR COUNCIL DIS-  
CUSSION, U.S. EXPERTS COULD BEGIN TO MOVE THE DISCUSSIONS  
IN THIS DIRECTION. MISSION HOPES, THEREFORE, THAT U.S.  
EXPERTS AT FORTHCOMING SERIES OF MEETINGS, BEGINNING  
WITH AFRICAN EXPERTS SESSIONS MARCH 27-29,  
WILL COME PREPARED TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF  
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THEIR ALLIED COLLEAGUES ON IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT POLICY  
ISSUES, OF SOME TOPICALITY, AND WHERE A NAC DISCUSSION  
MIGHT HELP TO BRING HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL ATTENTION TO  
THESE ISSUES.

3. MISSION WILL ALSO WORK WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AND WITH INTERNATIONAL STAFF TO PROMOTE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT FOLLOWING EACH EXPERTS' MEETING THE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL EXPERTS SESSIONS WILL REPORT ORALLY TO THE COUNCIL. IN ADDITION TO STATING THE GENERAL FINDINGS OF THE EXPERTS, WE WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT HE IDENTIFIES IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE EXPERTS, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE OF SOME URGENCY OR WHERE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WERE EXPRESSED. RUMSFELD

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